

Amendments to the Abstract:

Particle detection and ~~characterising~~ characterizing apparatus has an insulating tube (50) along which the particles flow. Five electrodes (51, 52, 55, 56) and (57) spaced along the outside of the tube are connected via amplifiers (61) and (62) to a processor (68) arranged to measure the charge on the particles. The apparatus also includes a laser (11) and photomultiplier tube (23) arranged to measure the size of the particles so that the nature of the particles can be ~~echaracterised~~ characterized from their electrical charge and size.